

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1.-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra; and  
a flange projecting from at least one of said bearing surfaces, said flange having a length extending along said at least one bearing surface and a width tapering in a direction along at least a portion of said length.

42. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 41, wherein said tapering width of said flange facilitates wedging engagement of said flange within a preformed opening defined in a corresponding one of the first and second vertebrae.

43. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 42, wherein said flange has a leading insertion end defining a beveled edge to facilitate insertion of said flange into said preformed opening.

44. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 41, wherein said flange has a leading insertion end and a trailing end, said width tapering outwardly from said leading end toward said trailing end.

45. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 41, further comprising a bone-growth promoting substance to facilitate bone growth with said flange.

46. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 45, wherein said flange is coated with said bone-growth promoting substance to facilitate bone on-growth.

47. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 41, wherein said flange defines at least one opening extending therethrough to permit bone through-growth.

48. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 41, wherein at least one of said flange projects from each of said first and second bearing surfaces.

49. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 41, further comprising a first articular surface arranged generally opposite said first bearing surface and a second articular surface arranged generally opposite said second bearing surface, said first and second articular surfaces cooperating to provide articulating motion.

50. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 49, wherein at least one of said first and second articular surfaces includes at least one surface depression configured to facilitate removal of matter disposed between abutting portions of said first and second articular surfaces.

51.-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a first flange projecting from said first bearing surface;  
a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra;  
a second flange projecting from said second bearing surface; and  
wherein each of said first and second flanges has a tapering width and defines at least one opening extending at least partially therethrough to permit bone growth into said flange.

62. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 61, wherein each of said first and second flanges has a length extending along said at least one bearing surface, said width tapering in a direction along at least a portion of said length.

63. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 61, wherein said at least one opening extends through said first and second flanges to permit bone through-growth.

64. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 61, further comprising a bone-growth promoting substance to facilitate bone growth with said flange.

65. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 61, further comprising a first articular surface arranged generally opposite said first bearing surface and a second articular surface arranged generally opposite said second bearing surface, said first and second articular surfaces cooperating to provide articulating motion, at least one of said first and second articular surfaces including at least one surface depression configured to facilitate removal of matter disposed between abutting portions of said first and second articular surfaces.

66. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra; and  
a flange projecting from at least one of said bearing surfaces and defining at least one opening extending at least partially therethrough.

67. (New) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 66, wherein said at least one opening is configured to permit bone growth into said flange

68. (New) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 66, wherein said at least one opening extends through said flange to permit bone through-growth.

69. (New) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 66, wherein said flange defines a plurality of said at least one opening.

70. (New) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 66, wherein at least a portion of said flange is coated with a bone-growth promoting substance to facilitate bone growth with said flange.

71. (New) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 66, wherein at least one of said flange projects from each of said first and second bearing surfaces.

72. (New) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 66, further comprising a first articular surface arranged generally opposite said first bearing surface and a second articular surface arranged generally opposite said second bearing surface, said first and second articular surfaces cooperating to provide articulating motion.

73. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra; and  
a flange projecting from at least one of said bearing surfaces and extending in a direction other than an anterior-posterior direction when the intervertebral prosthetic joint is inserted between the first and second vertebrae.

74. (New) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 73, wherein said flange extends in a lateral direction when the intervertebral prosthetic joint is inserted between the first and second vertebrae.

75. (New) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 73, wherein said flange defines at least one opening extending therethrough to permit bone growth through said flange.

76. (New) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 73, further comprising a first articular surface arranged generally opposite said first bearing surface and a second articular surface arranged generally opposite said second bearing surface, said first and second articular surfaces cooperating to provide articulating motion.

77. (New) An intervertebral prosthetic joint, comprising:  
a first bearing surface adapted to engage a first vertebra;  
a second bearing surface adapted to engage a second vertebra; and  
a flange projecting from at least one of said bearing surfaces and adapted for positioning in a slot formed in one of the first and second vertebrae; and  
a bone screw engaged between the intervertebral prosthetic joint and one of the first and second vertebrae to resist displacement of the intervertebral prosthetic joint.

78. (New) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 77, wherein said flange defines at least one opening extending at least partially therethrough to permit bone growth into said flange.

79. (New) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 77, wherein said flange defines at least one opening extending therethrough; and  
wherein said anchor is engaged with said flange.

80. (New) The intervertebral prosthetic joint of claim 77, further comprising a first articular surface arranged generally opposite said first bearing surface and a second articular surface arranged generally opposite said second bearing surface, said first and second articular surfaces cooperating to provide articulating motion.